

Claims

1- 14 -- Previously canceled

15. (Previously presented): A real time PCR instrument comprising

at least 1 light source,
a plurality of at least 5 optical fiber bundles, each said bundle transmitting light to one of a plurality of at least 5 separate fluorescent detector entities,
each of said detector entities having a central detection wavelength, said wavelengths being distinct from each other by at least 25 nm;
and characterized in that said plurality of detector entities is capable of simultaneously detecting maximum fluorescence emission of at least five different fluorescent compounds,
means for heating and cooling, and
multiple reaction vessels for containing a reaction mixture.

16. (Previously presented): A real time PCR instrument according to claim 15 comprising one light source.

17. (Previously presented): An instrument according to claim 15, wherein said central detection wavelengths are selected from a group of range of wavelengths, said group consisting of 520-540 nm, 545-565 nm, 570-590 nm, 600-620 nm, 630-650 nm, 660-680 nm, and 700-720 nm.